(d) whether the move now is towards foreign direct investment in the domestic sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the revised guidelines Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) No. 5 of 2002 issued on 4-6-2002, domestic scheduled airlaines are permitted to import aircraft on dry lease from foreign airlines. M/s Sahara Airlaines was permitted to import 12 CRJ aircraft on dry lease from foreign airlines. Now, any other scheduled airlines can import aircraft on dry lease from foreign airlines. The terms and conditions of lease are between leassor and the lessee, and vary between parties.

(d) The domestic air transport policy approved by the Government provides for foreign equity participation upto 40% and investment by Non-resident Indians (NRIs)/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) upto 100% in the domestic airtransport services. Foreign airlines are, however, not permitted to pick up equity directly or indirectly.

New warning equipment System in IA aircrafts

617. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlaines aircrafts are being provided with new warning equipment shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages to these new equipments;

(d) whether the installation of the new system would help the pilots to take preventive steps to avoid accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with standards laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the operations of the aeroplanes, Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System (EGPWS) is required to be installed before 1st January, 2003 on all turbine engined aeroplanes of maximum certified take off mass in excess of 15,000 kgs. or aeroplanes type certified to carry

more than 30 passengers. Accordingly, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) to comply with ICAO standard by all airlines in India. Installation of EGPWS on Airbus A-320 fleet of Indian Airlaines will be completed by 31.12.2002.

(c) to (e) EGPWS is an improved version of the existing Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS). EGPWS is equipped with a predictive terrain hazard warning functions. It provides automatically a timely and distinctive warning to the pilots under the following circumstances:—

1. excessive descent rate;

2. excessive terrain closure rate;

3. excessive altitude loss after take off or go-around;

4. unsafe terrain clearance while not in landing configuaration;

   (i) gear not locked down;

   (ii) flap not in landing position.

5. excessive descent below the instrument glide path.

These warnings assist the pilot and provide additional time to take action to avoid Controlled Flight Into Terrain' (CFIT) type of accidents, which result into maximum number of fatalities.

Seizure of unauthorised items from foreign airlines

618. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign airlines operating to and from India as on 30th June, 2002;

(b) the cities in India from where foreign airlines operate; and

(c) the number of in-coming flights from which drugs or other unauthorised items were seized during the last one year ending 30th June, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YSSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A total of 50 foreign airlines are presently operating air services to/from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata,